

(HD1880/SD689) An Act to Further Defining Comparable Work

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/senate/186/st00pdf/st00689.pdf>

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/house/186/ht01pdf/ht01880.pdf>

(Previously H1869/S1070)

Lead Sponsors: Senator Patricia D. Jehlen, Representative Alice K. Wolf

Endorsed: February 28, 2007

Summary: This legislation would define comparable work as “solely based on whether the two positions entail comparable skill, effort, responsibility, and working conditions between employees of the opposite sex.” In 1945 Massachusetts became the first state to require equal pay for comparable work, however, the concept of “comparable work” lacks definition in the statute, making the law ineffectual. Defining comparable work would ensure that employers are held responsible for paying equal wages to employees who perform the same level of work, regardless of gender; an important step towards closing the wage gap.

Status:

1/20/2009 S Referred to the [Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development](#)

1/20/2009 H House concurred

3/4/2010 S Accompanied by H1880

3/4/2010 S Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the [Senate Committee On Ways and Means](#)

(H2665 S1408)An Act to Authorize the Human Resources Division to Undertake a Study of the State’s Job Classification System

(Previously SD1933/HD1288, S2386/H2826)

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/house/186/ht02pdf/ht02665.pdf>

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/senate/186/st01pdf/st01408.pdf>

Lead Sponsors: Senator Harriette L. Chandler, Representative Alice K. Wolf

Endorsed: February 28, 2007

Summary: This bill would require the state’s human resources division to establish a job analysis study of state employees of the executive branch to update the current job classification system and review class titles, job specifications, organizational relationships and job qualifications to ensure that employee compensation, pensions, and benefits are free from gender and racial bias.

Status:

1/20/2009 H Referred to the [Joint Committee on Public Service](#)

1/20/2009 S Senate concurred

(S71) An Act Supporting Strong Families by Providing Paid Family and Medical Leave, Increasing Tax Deductions, and establishing a Work-Family Council

(Previously SD1066, S114)

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/senate/186/st00pdf/st00071.pdf>

Lead Sponsor: Senator Karen Spilka

Endorsed: May 24, 2006

Summary: This bill authorizes the creation of a Work-Family Council whose mission is to identify major work-family issues, design pilot programs, and educate the public. The bill increases tax deductions for working families caring for dependents (children and disabled individuals over the age of 65). The bill further creates an employee funded program, The Strong Families Trust Fund, to provide paid family and medical leave. Eligibility requirements will be based on the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act.

Status:

1/20/2009 S Referred to the [Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities](#)
1/20/2009 H House concurred
3/4/2010 S Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the [Senate Committee On Ways and Means](#)

(H1815 S688) An Act to Establish Paid Sick Days

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/house/186/ht01pdf/ht01815.pdf>

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/senate/186/st00pdf/st00688.pdf>

(Previously HD1726/S624, H1803/S1073)

Lead Sponsors: Senator Patricia D. Jehlen, Representative Kay Khan

Endorsed: May 25, 2005

Summary: The current legislation amends the previous bill by adding paid sick day coverage to women who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Paid sick day coverage would allow victims to take time off from work to obtain medical care, participate in criminal and civil legal proceedings, and relocate their families. The current legislation also purports that paid sick days are essential in protecting public health because workers in food services, nursing homes, child care centers and retail clerks frequently come in contact with the public yet have no paid sick day protection and are often times forced to work despite being ill with an infectious disease. The act also provides that paid days may be taken to care for one's ill immediate family members including children and elderly parents.

Status:

1/20/2009 H Referred to the [Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development](#)
1/20/2009 S Senate concurred
3/4/2010 H Accompanied by S688
3/4/2010 H Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the [Joint Committee on Health Care Financing](#)

(H1792 S730) An Act to Establish a Self-Sufficiency Standard in Massachusetts

(Previously H1774/ S1113)

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/house/186/ht01pdf/ht01792.pdf>

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/house/186/ht01pdf/ht01792.pdf>

Lead Sponsors: Senator Marian Walsh, Representative Daniel E. Bosley

Endorsed: May 23, 2001

Summary: This bill will establish a realistic, independent benchmark of economic status by region throughout Massachusetts. It is meant to provide a measure of the extent to which the incomes of households in Massachusetts are sufficient to support the costs of living, working, raising a family, and paying taxes in Massachusetts. The Self-Sufficiency Standard will calculate the realistic costs of housing, food, child care, transportation, medical care, taxes and miscellaneous items by region within the state. The standard will be used as an official and accurate reference point for policymakers.

Status:

1/20/2009 H Referred to the [Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development](#)
1/20/2009 S Senate concurred

**(H3434) (S218), An Act to Provide Health Education in Schools
(Previously H597)**

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/house/186/ht03pdf/ht03434.pdf>

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/senate/186/st00pdf/st00218.pdf>

Lead Sponsor: Representative Alice K. Wolf

Endorsed: October 26, 2005

Summary: This bill would provide for the Department of Education to implement health education into its core curriculum. School districts would be required to teach adequate age-appropriate health information, defined as “sufficient self-knowledge and knowledge of his or her mental and physical wellness”¹, for grades K-12. The Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Curriculum Framework outlines this health education which includes nutrition, personal self-care and safety. Health Education is necessary so that youth can make informed, responsible decisions about their bodies and lifestyle choices. The bill calls for a reevaluation of The Foundation budget to ensure sufficient funding for health education. Current law provides a parental opt-out for sex education, which remains intact.

Status:

1/20/2009 H Referred to the [Joint Committee on Education](#)

1/20/2009 S Senate concurred

(S810) An Act to Eliminate Health Disparities in the Commonwealth

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/senate/186/st00pdf/st00810.pdf>

Lead Sponsor: Senator Susan Fargo

Endorsed: October 24, 2007

Summary: This bill calls for the establishment of a new Office of Health Equity under the jurisdiction of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. This office would be responsible for researching and addressing how issues of racial and ethnic inequality affect individuals’ access to healthcare throughout the Commonwealth. The Office would create an annual “report card” examining the state’s progress in addressing these disparities and educating other executive agencies on their findings and promoting “health literacy” throughout the Commonwealth.

Status:

1/20/2009 S Referred to the [Joint Committee on Public Health](#)

1/20/2009 H House concurred

11/4/2009 S Accompanied by S811

11/4/2009 S Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the [Joint Committee on Health Care Financing](#)

**(S58) An Act to Relating to Anti-Human Trafficking and Protection.
(Previously S97)**

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/senate/186/st00pdf/st00058.pdf>

Lead Sponsor: Senator Mark C. Montigny

Endorsed: December 14, 2005

Summary: This bill provides for a study about trafficking of persons and involuntary servitude. The commission study shall include, but not be limited to the following: the prevalence of trafficking and involuntary servitude in the commonwealth, the harms and consequences to victims of such activities, the ability and capacity of existing social service and public and involuntary servitude in the commonwealth, the harms and consequences to victims of such activities, the ability and capacity of existing social service and public benefits programs to respond to the needs of such victims, the effectiveness of existing victim witness laws, regulations, and services to respond to the needs of such victims, the interplay of such programs with federally-funded victim service programs and the ability of state programs and licensing bodies to provide benefits, programs, and licenses to such victims.

Status:

1/20/2009 S Referred to the [Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities](#)
1/20/2009 H House concurred
7/15/2009 S Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the [Senate Committee On Ways and Means](#)

(S1559) An Act to Protect and Enhance the Rights of Child and Adult Victims and Witnesses of Crime
<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/senate/186/st01pdf/ST01559.PDF>
(Previously S802)

Lead Sponsors: Senator Frederick E. Berry
Endorsed: October 24, 2007

Summary: This legislation has been created to more comprehensively address the needs, rights and safety of child and adult victims or witnesses of crimes. The bill would not only add new rights to the Massachusetts *Victim Bill of Rights*, (originally signed into law in 1984 and amended in 1995), but would also clarify, revise and, if necessary, update the language of M.G.L. Chapter 258B, as well as assess and classify the “practices by the criminal justice agencies which have evolved over the last 10+ years.”

Status:

1/20/2009 S Referred to the [Joint Committee on the Judiciary](#)
1/20/2009 H House concurred

(H1728, S1687) An Act Relative to Gender Based Discrimination and Hate Crimes
(Previously H1722)
<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/house/186/ht01pdf/ht01728.pdf>
<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/senate/186/st01pdf/st01687.pdf>

Lead Sponsors: Representative Carl Sciortino
Endorsed: February 28, 2008

Summary: An Act Relative to Gender-Based Discrimination and Hate Crimes of 2007 clarifies and updates Massachusetts’ non-discrimination laws to ensure that they clearly and uniformly protect all people regardless of their gender identity or expression. This bill adds the categories of gender identity and expression to our hate crime laws as well as to the employment, housing, credit, public accommodations, and education non-discrimination laws.

Status:

1/20/2009 H Referred to the [Joint Committee on the Judiciary](#)
1/20/2009 S Senate concurred

**(H1861 S699) An Act Relative to Bullying in the Workplace
(Previously H1850)**

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/house/186/ht01pdf/ht01861.pdf>

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/186history/s00699.htm>

Lead Sponsor: Representative Ellen Story

Endorsed: June 27, 2007

Summary: *An Act Relative to Bullying in the Workplace* would amend Chapter 149 of the General Laws to add Section 115A whose purpose is to determine and analyze the direct and indirect costs to workers, families and the companies affected by workplace psychological harassment. The goal is to then establish a program that requires employers with 50 or more employees to establish policies defining psychological harassment and ways of prevention.

Status:

1/20/2009 H Referred to the [Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse](#)

1/20/2009 H Referred to the [Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development](#)

1/20/2009 S Senate concurred
